

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-20 ACDA-12 AID-05 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 DOE-15

SOE-02 NRC-07 /138 W

-----002265 091009Z /11

R 090752Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6950

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 09677

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: ROMULO'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. SECRETARY ROMULO'S JUNE 7 ARRIVAL STATEMENT UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT EMPHASIZES US-RP MILITARY BASES TALKS AND HUMAN RIGHTS. ROMULO NOTES THAT SECRETARY VANCE AND HE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR MEASURES TO KEEP THE BASES NEGOTIATIONS MOVING AND CITES SECSTATE AS ASSURING HIM THE USG "WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND THE PHILIPPINE POSITION AND TO STUDY NEW APPROACHES THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO MAKE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT." HE SAYS HE POINTED OUT TO U.S. LEADERS THAT, ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN VIEWS, THE PHIL BASES ARE A KEY TO AMERICA'S GLOBAL SECURITY POSTURE. HE CONCLUDES THUS THAT THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AS THE U.S. DEFINES IT, "WOULD APPEAR TO BE PERIPHERAL". HE NOTES HIS CRITICISM IN THE U.S. OF THE DISTORTED AMERICAN PRESS REPORTING ON THE PHILIPPINES AND HIS EXHORTATIONS TO THE

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USG TO HELP PRESIDENT MARCOS TOWARD NORMALIZATION "INSTEAD OF EXACERBATING THE SITUATION." FULL TEXT, AS RELEASED BY MFA, FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN TEXT. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, I ATTENDED THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT, WHERE I EXPRESSED THE

VIEWS OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT. THE PHILIPPINES BELIEVES THAT THE ONLY HOPE FOR LASTING WORLD PEACE LIES IN COMPREHENSIVE DISARMAMENT INVOLVING BOTH NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS. IT IS ALLEGED THAT THE REASON BEHIND THE SPIRALLING ARMS RACE IS TO ENSURE SECURITY. THE PARADOX, HOWEVER, IS THAT SINCE THERE IS NO REAL DEFENSE AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE SEARCH FOR TRUE SECURITY REMAINS AND WILL REMAIN AN ELUSIVE QUEST.

THE PHILIPPINES THEREFORE SUPPORTED THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT ORGANIZATION TO STUDY, AMONG OTHERS, THE MECHANISM FOR CONCRETE STEPS LEADING TO WORLDWIDE DISARMAMENT. THIS ORGANIZATION, OPERATING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WOULD ALSO ENSURE THAT A LINKAGE IS ESTABLISHED BETWEEN DISARMAMENT AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY WHILE IN NEW YORK AND DURING MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON TO CONFER WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE, WITH SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE, AND WITH SEVERAL OTHER OFFICIALS.

SECRETARY VANCE AND I AGREED ON THE NEED TO REACH CONCRETE AGREEMENTS ON PRACTICAL MEASURES IN ORDER TO KEEP THE BASES NEGOTIATIONS MOVING. THE SECRETARY OF STATE ASSURED

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ME THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO UNDERSTAND THE PHILIPPINE POSITION AND TO STUDY NEW APPROACHES THAT WOULD ENABLE THEM TO MAKE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

I THEN GAVE SECRETARY VANCE A COMPLETE PICTURE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD IN THE LAST ELECTIONS. SOLICITOR GENERAL MENDOZA, AUTHOR OF THE ELECTION CODE, AND WHO APPEARED FOR THE GOVERNMENT BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT IN ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL CASES REGARDING MARTIAL LAW, CLARIFIED MANY POINTS THAT NEEDED EXPLANATION. I ALSO TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT WE REGRETTED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT SEEMED TO BE ACCEPTING AT FACE VALUE REPORTS WHICH EVIDENTLY EMANATED FROM OPPOSITION SOURCES. I IMPRESSED ON HIM THE FACT THAT WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THE U.S. POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, DEVELOPING COUNTRIES NECESSARILY HAD A DIFFERENT ORDER OF PRIORITIES. FREEDOM FROM WANT TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND INDEED THE LATTER IS NOT POSSIBLE EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FORMER. I ADDED THAT THE DESIRE OF PRESIDENT MARCOS WAS TO NORMALIZE CONDITIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

AND THAT THE U.S., WHICH ALSO DESIRES THIS, SHOULD HELP  
THE PRESIDENT INSTEAD OF EXACERBATING THE SITUATION.

IN WASHINGTON, I MET WITH SPEAKER O'NEILL, THE LEADERS OF  
BOTH HOUSES AND SEVERAL OTHER SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN,  
SOME OF THEM CHAIRMEN OF IMPORTANT COMMITTEES. I ALSO  
CONFERRED WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE NEWSOM IN HIS  
OFFICE AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT. TO A MAN, THEY WERE  
ASTONISHED BY THE GAP BETWEEN MY EXPLANATION OF CONDITIONS  
IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE REPORTS APPEARING IN THE

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6951

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

AMERICAN PRESS. THEY TOLD ME THEY WISHED THEY HAD HEARD  
THE MORE ACCURATE VERSION EARLIER AND THAT THEY WOULD DO  
WHAT THEY COULD TO RECTIFY THE PROBLEM AND PRESENT A  
TRUER AND FAIRER ACCOUNT OF THE NEW SOCIETY.

I POINTED OUT TO THEM THAT ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN VIEWS,  
THE PHILIPPINE BASES ARE A KEY TO AMERICA'S GLOBAL  
SECURITY POSTURE. IN THIS EVENT, THE QUESTION OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS, AS THEY DEFINE IT, WOULD APPEAR TO BE PERIPHERAL.  
WE SHARE THEIR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDEED, IT IS  
OUR OFFICIAL POLICY TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS. BUT FIRST  
THINGS MUST COME FIRST.

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MY VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON  
HAS BEEN HELPFUL AND MAY ASSIST IN THE NEEDED RE-THINKING  
OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED

STATES. LIGHT HAS BEEN SHED ON THE DARKER ASPECTS OF OUR  
RELATIONS AND I HAVE THE FEELING THAT AMERICANS, ONCE  
THEY ARE TOLD THE TRUTH, WILL RESPOND IN WAYS WHICH WILL  
PROVE TO BE MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. END TEXT. MURPHY  
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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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